

# LAWS DO NOT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE, ENFORCING CURRENT LAWS DO

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting as so many come to the well to try and make sense of the senseless. But it is extremely difficult to understand how we can undue senseless acts when current laws are not enforced. Penalizing law abiding Americans who freely exercise their rights under the Second Amendment does not improve anyone's safety.

Indeed, the tragedy in Michigan that so many of us mourn could not have been reversed by expecting a 19-year-old criminal to put a lock on a loaded gun in a shoe box, preventing a 6 year old from getting the gun.

Laws do not make the difference. Enforcing the current laws do. While we have an administration that refuses to enforce current laws and in some cases refuses to obey current laws, we have the crux of the problem confronting America.

## IN MEMORY OF BEN RANDALL

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have lost a very dear friend, and the Houston community has lost a dear friend, and as well Texas, and maybe even the Nation. Ben Randall, a community activist lost his life just about a week ago. I rise today to pay tribute to an individual who never said no to the community needs of Houston, Texas.

Energetic, creative, thoughtful, and caring was Ben Randall. He loved his family. He loved his two sons, outstanding as they are, leaders in their own right, academic geniuses. Ben Randall was always so proud.

He worked for Texas Southern University. He was a community relations activist, working for Enron. He worked for small businesses and tried to develop opportunities for minority businesses to do and have greater economic opportunities. He helped on issues of fund-raising for any charity one can imagine.

He loved his God. He loved his church, Windsor Village United Methodist Church. He was an activist there. He had prayer partners. He prayed for others.

Whenever there was an opportunity to share his values and his commitment to the greatness of this Nation, Ben Randall was there. He loved this country.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply say that, as we bury him and as we buried him in his hometown of San Antonio,

the tears of those of us who lived in Houston continue to pour.

We memorialize him today on April 5 in Houston because so many friends could not make it to San Antonio, but they needed to honor him and say good-bye. It is right to pay tribute to him and to do it with love, and do it with respect.

I say farewell to my friend, Ben Randall. He may be gone, but he will be forever in our memories. We salute him for the great humanitarian efforts he made on behalf of so many people. God bless him and God bless America.

## TAX COUNTDOWN

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the countdown is on. The tax clock is ticking. The day the American workers dread the most, tax day, is only 10 days away.

April 15 looms on the calendar each year as an ominous reminder of the crushing burden of the current Federal Tax Code. While the IRS often stands behind closed doors, American working men and women struggle to keep pace with an out-of-control Federal agency.

Over the next 10 days, taxpayers across this country will spend sleepless nights and countless hours in an attempt to figure out exactly the correct amount of their hard-earned money and how much they must send to the Federal Government.

Heaven forbid the amount will be off even by a single cent and cause the taxpayers the horror of facing the unbridled wrath of an audit by the Internal Revenue Service.

Mr. Speaker, we must act now to enact comprehensive tax reform, giving our working families a fairer, flatter, and simpler tax without an IRS.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back our antiquated and oppressive tax system that continues to burden too many hard-working Americans every year.

## BALANCED BUDGET PROVES REPUBLICAN CONGRESS IS SERIOUS ABOUT ITS PROMISE TO BALANCE BUDGET AND CONTROL DEFICIT SPENDING

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, let me see if I have got this straight. I am supposed to be impressed that the government is not going to spend more money than it has. I am supposed to rejoice that the government is not going to make our \$5 trillion national debt any worse. I am supposed to brag to my constituents that Washington is going to balance its budget.

Well, Mr. Speaker, by the standards of Washington, yes.

Balancing the budget should not be a big deal; it should not be treated as some great achievement. But I must say, after 30 years of expanding the welfare state every year, balancing the budget is no mean feat. Balancing the budget, which to me is only common sense, is an extraordinary thing in a town that has seen nothing but deficits since 1969.

This balanced budget is proof of two things. First, the Republican Congress is serious about its promise to balance the budget. Second, deficit spending does not have to be a way of life.

Now that is something to brag about.

## CENSUS BUREAU SHOULD GET AWARD FOR BIGGEST GOVERNMENT SCREW UP

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, if there were an award for the biggest government screw up of the year, the Census Bureau would win the award going away.

The Census Bureau, which has been planning the 2000 census for 10 years, now sent out 120 million pre-notification cards with the wrong address. That is right, Mr. Speaker, the wrong address. Most of us learned to address a letter by the time we left the third grade. I guess the folks at the Census Bureau were absent that day. This from the folks who want to use smoke and mirrors to adjust the final results of the census.

The American people know better, Mr. Speaker. The Census Bureau certainly has some explaining to do. If the Bureau cannot be trusted to address mail properly, how can we trust them with their risky statistical scheme.

## GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO SPEND TAXPAYER MONEY WISELY

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, last year when the House proposed to Federal agencies that they cut out 1 cent of every dollar they spend, the Clinton administration screamed bloody murder. Cut out 1 cent from the Federal Government for every dollar we spend? There is no way. We are too efficient, too effective.

The Secretary of Interior said there is absolutely no waste in my department and yet went on to waste money after money.

Let me give my colleagues an example. The Social Security Administration sent out \$3.3 billion in checks to people who were ineligible for it. Well, they might look there.

How about the rocket launchers? AL GORE is a big gun control advocate, but when one of the \$1 million rocket launcher disappeared, there was no word from the administration. Now, that is scary enough, but then another one disappeared. Think about that. There are two rocket launchers at large somewhere in our society. Yet, the folks in the Gore-Clinton administration are telling us there is no waste in government.

Mr. Speaker, we have got to do a better job. We are not spending our money. Contrary to the government dogma that it is government money, it is not. It is taxpayer money. It is what people back home work real hard to send to us. We need to be fiduciaries of it. We need to spend it carefully.

#### PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT OF 2000

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 457 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 457

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3660) to amend title 18, United States Code, to ban partial-birth abortions. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. After passage of H.R. 3660, it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table S. 1692 and to consider the Senate bill in the House. It shall be in order to move to strike all after the enacting clause of the Senate bill and to insert in lieu thereof the provisions of H.R. 3660 as passed by the House. All points of order against that motion are waived. If the motion is adopted and the Senate bill, as amended, is passed, then it shall be in order to move that the House insist on its amendment to S. 1692 and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

□ 1030

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Linder) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 457 is a closed rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3660, the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2000. H. Res. 457 provides 2 hours of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

House Resolution 457 provides that, after passage of H.R. 3660, it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table S. 1692, consider it in the House, and to move to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the text of H.R. 3660 as passed by the House.

The rule also waives all points of order against the motion to strike and insert. It provides that if the motion is adopted and the Senate bill as amended is passed, then it shall be in order that the House insist on its amendment and request a conference on the bill.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions, as is the right of the minority.

Mr. Speaker, I will not take time here to discuss the grizzly nature of this procedure at issue. Many of the other speakers today will address that. I would like to briefly note, however, that this rule allows the House to take this latest step in the ongoing saga of the effort to ban the dreadful partial-birth abortion procedure.

Legislation has passed this House by a veto-proof majority in the past two Congresses. The vote today will be the seventh time the issue has come before the House in the past 5 years. In fact, the bill we debate today has been adjusted from previous texts to account for the growing body of law dealing with partial-birth abortion.

While the President has prevented Congress from taking the action that the overwhelming majority of Americans support, the States have taken the lead on this issue. I urge my colleagues to stand today with the American people to preserve unborn life by supporting this rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I oppose this closed rule. The majority claims to favor full and free debate on important issues; however, on this controversial bill, the majority has chosen to prohibit any amendments from being offered.

I must also voice my strong concerns with the bill made in order by this rule, H.R. 3660, the so-called Partial Birth Abortion Ban.

Once again we have anti-choice legislation on the House floor. Like most of us, my schedule as a Member of Congress is erratic, but each year I have discovered that one of the legislative constants is that the House leadership finds plenty of time to force consideration of anti-choice legislation. As the Washington Post noted this morning, and I quote, "The measure is probably unconstitutional and certainly bad policy, but the House is to take it up today for the third time in 5 years."

This legislation has been fast tracked through Congress, denied input from other Members of Congress or the benefit of the subcommittee and full committee markup. But what is most offensive about the timing of the legislation is not simply the lack of debate time, it is the fact that the legislation is breathing down the neck of an upcoming Supreme Court hearing on the constitutionality of Nebraska's abortion law and is a blatant attempt to try to influence the court.

The fundamental principles of *Roe v. Wade* already protect a viable fetus. *Roe* recognizes that the State has a compelling interest in the welfare of a fetus that can survive outside the womb. And none of us, none of us, approve late-term abortions, except in circumstances to save the life and health of the mother.

But under this ban, the fundamental principles of the *Roe v. Wade* decision are gutted. The Supreme Court has consistently held that a woman's life and health must be protected throughout pregnancy. And no advances in medicine yet have guaranteed a perfect pregnancy. Due to the lack of health exceptions in abortion bans, President Clinton has vetoed similar legislation time and time again, and this bill is no different. It makes no exception for protecting a mother's health.

Moreover, the language of the bill is so intentionally vague that both doctors and the courts have scoffed at it, asserting that this terminology could ban all procedures regardless of the viability thresholds guaranteed by *Roe*. In fact, it would make it a criminal offense for a physician to perform not just one particular procedure, but the safest and most common procedure in reproductive health care.

Even the American Medical Association, which originally supported this legislation, no longer does. And can we blame them? What is a doctor to do, faced with losing his or her livelihood and potential jail time? I can assure my colleagues that the primary concern of most physicians will not be protecting the health of the woman if their own livelihood is at stake. Why would they risk 2 years in prison and loss of their license when they could simply make a decision?

The proponents of this legislation would have us believe that this ban will prohibit one procedure used to perform only post-viability abortions; that is the point after which the fetus can live on its own. However, the bill is written so that it could ban safe abortion procedures used prior to fetal viability.

Mr. Speaker, in the circumstances of late abortions, in most all cases, these are fetuses who are either badly malformed or in a condition that really threatens the health of the mother. In most cases these babies are desperately wanted, and there is no other choice to